

~~TOP SECRET GROSS~~

TCS-1415-57
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13 May 1957

MEMORANDUM FOR: Project Director

SUBJECT: Comparative Film Processing Study

1. Attached hereto for your information is the study completed by HTAUTOMAT which had been provoked in part by [REDACTED] cable some three weeks ago commenting on the relative quality of Eastman [REDACTED]

2. A summary of these findings is as follows:

a. Materials field processed [REDACTED] in general are of slightly higher quality as far as the image is concerned.

b. The materials processed at Eastman are of slightly higher quality as far as chemical aspects are concerned, i. e., better washing, less residual thio-sulphate, etc., and as a result our archival properties of materials processed at Eastman are superior although it is difficult to say exactly in terms of years how much superior.

3. HTAUTOMAT has included herein also recommendations for the correction of certain shortcomings in field processing as revealed by their study. Colonel Macia has already indicated his willingness to sit down with us to examine specific suggestions for the improvement of field processing [REDACTED]. Accordingly, the recommendations referred to will be lifted and, in the course of the next ten days, serve as the basis for a discussion with Colonel Macia.

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4. It seems to me that the important conclusion derived from this study is not that we should concentrate processing one place or the other but rather that we can gain some satisfaction in the knowledge that we do have a reasonably high grade capability to process [REDACTED] required without loss of those characteristics so essential for ZI work. With the improvements readily possible in handling in [REDACTED] we should be in even better shape.

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5. Let me call your attention to the caveat which HTAUTOMAT has expressed throughout their study, namely, a recognition that within the time available to them and still limited sampling (though more extensive than in the preliminary study) they do not claim that this is the last word.

6. Unless you suggest otherwise, I will forward this study to [REDACTED] for his examination (and naturally others in Operations as desired) but certainly for the time being it should not go outside of that precinct.

JAMES O. REBER
Intelligence Requirements Officer

Attachment
TCS-1414-57 cy 1

1&2-Project Director w/att
3-Chief, HTA

4-file
5-chrono

JQR:cw